

Mathers Mill
Mathers Lane between
Skipack & Bethlehem Pikes
Whitemarsh, Penna.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Pennsylvania

HISTORICAL AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Joseph P. Sims, District Officer
2008 Architects Building, Philadelphia, Penna.

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MATHERS MILL
Mathers Lane between
Skippack & Bethlehem Pikes
Whitemarsh, Pennsylvania

Owner: Mrs. William L. Foulke

Date of Erection: About 1710

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Unknown

Present Condition: Unchanged on the exterior, but entirely altered inside as a Badminton Court.

Number of Stories: Two and one-half stories.

Materials of Construction: The walls are built of local stone whitewashed, with a shingle roof and clapboarded tops to the gable ends. The wood cornices and barge boards are of a simple and primitive type.

The windows, of twelve lights, have wood frames and sills, the frames pegged with wood pegs.

The interior has been so altered that there is nothing left of the original floor construction. Many of the rafters and collar beams have also been renewed.

History: The land on which the Mill stands was owned by the Jasper Farmer family from 1681, when purchased from William Penn, until it passed to the Morris family in 1772. Isaac Mather, the son-in-law of Joshua Morris, purchased and improved it soon after.

The Mill is said to have been built about 1710, by Edward Farmer, and was one of the largest of the fifty odd paper and grist mills scattered along the Wissahickon and its tributaries.

It figured prominently in the Revolutionary events of 1777, and Sentries were posted

in the top of a large sycamore tree, still standing, to warn Washington and Lafayette, who were encamped nearby of the approach of the British after the Battle of Germantown.

Known for many years as Mather's Mill, it has not been in use recently.

Bibliography: Montgomery County Historical Society Publications; MacFarlane's History of Chestnut Hill; Articles in the Roxborough and Manayunk Suburban Press by James E. Magee, Jr., 1934-35.

Joseph P. Sims

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